



# NewsRelease

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Northwestern Division  
Public Affairs Office

12565 West Center Road  
Omaha, Nebraska 68144 -3869

Phone: (402) 697 -2552  
Fax: (402) 697 -2554

Contact: Paul Johnston  
(402) 697 -2552  
Larry Cieslik  
(402) 697 -2675  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMAHA --The Army Corps of Engineers began refilling three reservoirs in South Dakota and Nebraska at midnight in preparation for the surge in recreation over the Memorial Day weekend.

With the lifting of various court orders that restricted the movement of water among the reservoirs, the Corps began moving water back into the lakes behind Big Bend, Fort Randall and Gavins Point dams. These three have about the same visitation as the larger upstream reservoirs behind Oahe, Garrison and Fort Peck dams.

Most boat ramps and recreation areas on the three lakes will be accessible. Lake Sharpe will climb a foot to an elevation of 1418.3 feet above mean sea level (msl) by Friday. Lake Francis Case will slip less than 6 inches as water moves downstream into Lewis and Clark Lake. It will climb slightly to an elevation of 1205.2 feet msl by Saturday.

The water to refill these lakes is coming out Lake Oahe, which will drop about 4 inches by the weekend.

Releases from Fort Peck Dam in Montana will remain unchanged. As the melting mountain snow begins arriving in Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota, releases from Garrison will gradually increase while keeping the lake level stable. The river stage in Bismarck will remain at the current 3.8 feet over the weekend and gradually rise next week.

Flows from Gavins Point will be unchanged. Absent heavy rains in the region, river stages in Yankton, Sioux City and Omaha will remain at current levels.

The Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the recreation season for many boaters and fishermen. With lower levels on the reservoirs and the river reaches below them, people are urged to be especially watchful for obstacles and always wear their personal flotation device.